



## Yearlong Writer's Block

Written by Scotty Escobar

Notifications from Canvas light up my phone's screen—something about a new assignment, new test, new task. I pick up my phone and scroll through my emails. Nearly two thousand unread emails sitting in my inbox.

So many, I think to myself.

Yesterday, I made a phone call to my sister.

## HOW ARE YOU?

she asked. Not knowing what to say, I began stuttering for what felt like an eternity. *Alright*, I finally spat out.

Thing is, I didn't know what I meant by alright.

4

YEARLONG WRITER'S BLOCK SCOTTY ESCOBAR

A week ago, I found myself missing an old friend from high school. So I decided to text her even though we hadn't talked in over a year. With a hello and the tap of a send button, my greeting goes. A few moments later, she responds and asks me how I'm doing. I explain that nothing much has changed since we last saw each other. Part of me feels embarrassed though, admitting that I'm still the same lousy, unmotivated person she knew.

6

She stops replying after a while.

A month ago, I took a break from therapy. Although I didn't have a compelling reason, I felt like I needed to be alone for a while. After a couple of days, I convinced myself that my life didn't matter. After a few missed appointments, my therapist calls me. *Brr-brr*, *brr-brr*, goes the phone. Guilt bubbles in my throat like cough syrup—bitter and heavy.

Brr-brr, brr-brr.

YEARLONG WRITER'S BLOCK SCOTTY ESCOBAR

Today, before the sun came up, I lied in bed for five minutes, or maybe an hour. Huddled under my sheets. Knees tucked against my chest. I kept thinking of my ex-boyfriend. Replaying the few memories I have left of him. Hardly remembering conversations, I replay his image instead. His body's outline. The way my fingertips traced his waist and all of its grooves.

8

I miss him, still.

And lately, I've just been so sad and I wanna cry but my body won't let me. So I lie down; here, there, anywhere. Wishing I could just cry again.

September 14, 2020

9

The Short Stories Series is a collaboration with writers to start a zine collection that reflects their writing and give them a platform to distribute their work.

This project is open to the public for submissions, for more information please see www.ezszmz.com/sss

Fonts used:

Noto Serif JP Minion Pro Almarai

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Thank you for reading!

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